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March 21, 1836.

Sir Charles LEMON, Bart., M.P., President, in the Chair,

The Minutes of the Anniversary Meeting were read and confirmed.

Arthur Anderson, Esq., of Norwood, Surry; John Clendinning, Esq., M.D., of Wimpole Street; Henry Hooper, Esq., of Pall Mall East; Sir Francis Lindley Wood, Baronet, of Hickleton near Doncaster; and Charles A. M. Willich, Esq., of Suffolk Street, Pall Mall East; were elected Fellows of this Society.

A Paper was read, entitled, "Some Remarks on the Bills of Mortality for the kingdom of Denmark, in the year 1834." By G. R. Porter, Esq., Vice-President. The Notes appended to the paper were by Rawson W. Rawson, Esq., Hon. Secretary.

The Danish Government has recently promulgated some statements concerning the progress of the population of Denmark in the year 1834. Mr. Porter observed that referring as they do to only one particular year, these statements are wanting in that kind and degree of utility which accompanies a long continued and consecutive series of Tables, from which comparisons may be drawn between different periods. If taken by themselves, the statements may, and indeed most probably must, lead to erroneous conclusions. Every document of this kind may, however, be useful as forming part of a chain, the remaining links of which may be supplied on future occasions, and a short account of the Danish statements might therefore, he thought, not be uninteresting to the Society.

According to the latest census, which it is believed was taken in 1830, the population of Denmark Proper, to which part of the monarchy the following figures relate, was 1,224,000 souls.

It will be seen from the tables appended to this paper that the total number of marriages within the year 1834 was 10,774, or

in the proportion of 1 to 113.61 of the population. This proportion is much greater than that of England, where the annual average of marriages in each of the quinquennial periods that preceded the enumerations of 1801, 1811, 1821 and 1831 was as follows:—

1796	1800 1 in 123	1816	1820 1 in 127
1806	1810 1 in 121	1826	1830 1 in 128

The Average proportion in France, during 17 years, 1817 to 1833, was 1 to 131.

The average number of Children born to each marriage in Denmark is stated to be 3.62 about $3\frac{5}{8}$.

The total number of births within the year will be seen on inspection of the Table to amount to 43,266 (22,109 Males, 21,157 Females) In this number were included 1,810 still-born children, (1,024 Males, 786 Females). The proportion of births to the population, including those still-born, is thus, 1 in 28.27; if only living children are considered, the proportion will be reduced to 1 in $29\frac{1}{2}$.

It is not possible accurately to compare these proportions with the births that have occurred in England, where the returns have hitherto included only those children whose parents have subjected them to the rite of baptism. Taking the periods already cited for the comparison of marriages, we shall find that the baptisms in England have, on an annual average, been as follows:—

1796 to 1800 1 in 36 of the population.
1806 .. 1810 1 .. 32 „
1816 .. 1820 1 .. 33 „
1826 .. 1830 1 .. 34 „

The proportion which the still-born children in Denmark bore to the whole number of births in 1834 was 1 to 22.90; in Copenhagen the proportion was much higher, having been 1 to 16. We have no means of comparing this proportion with the like occurrences in our own country generally. The bills of mortality for particular places do indeed state the number of still-born in-

fants, but, for the reason already given, it is not possible to rely upon the accuracy of the proportions which they shew to the whole number of births. The bills of mortality for the City of Glasgow for 12 years from 1821 to 1833, (excluding 1823, the returns of which year are incomplete) shew only 37,415 births, among which 4,951 or 1 in 7.76 were still-born; but it appears very evidently that the births are given inaccurately. In 1831, when the population was 147,043, the births are given as 2,661, or only 1 in 55.26, and in 1831, when the population had increased to 202,426 the births were 3,438, or 1 in 58.87 which must be greatly below the actual proportions.* In London, the number of children *christened* within the bills of mortality in the 14 years from 1820 to 1833 was 365,766; and the number of still-born infants 10,969, or 1 in 33.34, a result very different from that shewn in Glasgow if even we rectify the apparent error in the number of births there given, and assume that the children born were in the same proportion as in England generally. We have however a more accurate means of comparison as regards still-born children, than either of the two just cited in the returns of the General Lying-in Hospital in the Westminster Road. The births in that establishment during 40 years from 1795 to 1834 amounted to 7,345, in addition to 171 still-born infants, who were therefore in the proportion to the living of 1 to 42.9,

* The proportion of births registered in England and Wales, to the population, according to each census, was as follows:—

Years.			
1801	one Birth to 37.43		
1811	 33.33	Average	35 20
1821	 33.71		
1831	 36.36		
		In London 1821	36.67
		1831	37.94

In London the number of births not registered amounted, upon the average of the 10 years between 1821 and 1830, to 3.92, or nearly 4 per cent.; if that addition, therefore, is made to the registered births in England and Wales, the population of births to the population will be,

In	1801	one Birth in 36
	1811	 32.05
	1821	 32.41
	1831	 34.96

a much more favourable proportion than that of the whole of Denmark and in the ratio of only 2 to 5 as compared with Copenhagen only, a comparison which it appears proper to make, since we may fairly infer that the same causes which increase the proportion of still-births in the capital of Denmark would equally render those of the capital of England greater than the rest of the kingdom.*

The proportion of still-born children in the General Lying-in Hospital has, in particular years, been much greater than the average number for the whole term, and it is deserving of remark that the particular five out of 40 years in which this excess occurred were periods of high prices consequent upon deficient harvests.

In 1796 the number of births was 111, among which 8 were still-born, being in the proportion of 1 to 12.88 born alive. The average price of wheat in 1795 had been as high as 115*s.* 7*d.*, and in 1796 was still above 5*l.* per Quarter.

* The proportion of still-born children to the births at the City of London Lying-in Hospital in the three years 1832, 3, 4.

1832	one in 22.5	Average 20.9
1833	 22.2	
1834	 18	

Ditto in the Queen Charlotte's Lying-in Hospital.

1828	one in 15.9	Average 21.05
1829	 20.3	
1830	 27.4	
1831	 18.9	
1832	 13.9	
1833	 16.3	
1834	 32.8	
1835	 22.9	

The proportion of still-born children in Saxony to total births.

1831 ...	one in 20.1	Average 22.2
1832	 21.7	
1833	 22.6	
1834	 24.9	

In the following year 1797, out of 134 children 8 were still-born, or 1 to 15.75 born alive. The price of wheat fell considerably during this year, and was not at any time during its continuance higher than 63*s.* 5*d.* per Quarter, but if the effect here hinted at is at all referrible to the question of plenty or scarcity, it must be obvious that the high prices of the preceding year must be taken into the estimate.

The next year, in which an excess of still-born children occurs, is 1802, when out of 173 children 10 were still-born, or 1 to 16.3 of living children. The deficiency of the previous harvest was such that the average price of wheat had been driven up to 156*s.* 2*d.* per Quarter, and the quartern loaf was for some time sold at the starvation price of two shillings.

The other two years in which a like excessive proportion occurs, are 1816 and 1817, both years of deficient harvests. In the first, the number of children was 223, and the still-born among them 19; and in 1817, the children were 260 and the still-born 18, giving the respective proportions of 1 to 10.73, and 1 to 13.44 of living children. In 1816, the average price of wheat was at one time as high as 104*s.* 2*d.*, and in 1817 it reached 114*s.* 11*d.* per Quarter.

If these five years are excluded from the statement it will appear that in 33 years occurring between 1795 and 1834,* there were 6,629 children born in the General Lying-in Hospital, of whom 108 were still-born, showing the small proportion of 1 in 61.38, little more than one-third of the proportion for the kingdom of Denmark, and scarcely beyond one-fourth of that for the city of Copenhagen.

It was suggested that it might prove an interesting enquiry had we the means of pursuing it, to ascertain the proportions of children still-born in different countries, and to try their variations by a similar test to that here pointed out, viz. the ability of the labouring classes to command a sufficiency of the necessaries of life.

* The numbers for the years 1810 and 1815 are not given.

The proportion of illegitimate births is very great in Denmark, being in 1834, 4,077 out of 43,266, or 1 illegitimate to 9.16 legitimate children. The proportion in Copenhagen is even much greater than this, being 864 in 3,671, or 1 in 4.25. Although this proportion is not so unfavourable as that experienced in the city of Paris, it appears that the laxity in this particular branch of moral conduct is greater throughout Denmark than it is in the entire kingdom of France, and far greater than that ascertained with regard to most other European countries.*

The number of deaths throughout Denmark in 1834 was 31,294; of whom 16,296 were males and 14.998 females. The proportion to the whole population is therefore 1 to 39.11.

The number of deaths being taken from the number of the births, leaves 11,972 as the increase of the population during the particular year under examination. This increase on a population of 1,224,000, is a small fraction short of 1 per cent. (0.978 per cent.) and at this rate of progression, the population of the country would double itself in about 74½ years.

The annexed table will show the ages at which persons of both sexes have died during the year. Limited as the return is to one year, it is evident that this table cannot afford any light as to the progressive condition of the population of Denmark as shewn by the duration of life. This deficiency is, however, in part supplied by a statement, set forth officially, shewing the

* The proportion of Illegitimate to Legitimate Births in 1830, was

In England	one in	20
Wales	one ..	13
England and Wales	one ..	19

Greatest Proportions.		Lowest Proportions.	
Pembroke	one in 8	Middlesex	one in 38
Radnor	7	Surrey..	40

proportionate number of persons of different ages who have died annually in Denmark out of 1000 individuals of the male sex taken on the average of 5 years for three distinct periods, viz. 1784, 1808 and 1833. It is a favourable feature in this statement, that the proportion of children dying under 10 years of age, which in 1784 was 458 in 1000, was only 385 in 1808, and was still further reduced to 366 in 1833: in the single year 1834 the proportion again advanced to 457. The numbers that died under 20 years of age was in

1784..	498	
1808..	424	Average of
1833..	409	5 years.*
1834..	512	(Single year.)

It is obvious that the deaths thus occurring are unfavourable to the progress of a country. In infancy and childhood, and, in some cases, even up to perfect manhood, all that are born in any country constitute a charge upon its means and resources which should be replaced by the exertions of their riper years, but which must be irretrievably lost to the country with respect to those whose deaths occur under the ages of profitable labour. The progressive and prospering condition of our own country during the present century, as shewn by its population returns, is not so much owing to the great number of births, for in fact the proportionate number of children born to the whole population has been less of late years than it was formerly, but to the greater proportion of those children who live through the stages of infancy and boyhood, and who enjoy a lengthened period of active and productive existence.

For greater convenience, a summary of the proportions exhibited by the Danish returns, most of which have been already stated, is subjoined, together with some other results bearing upon the subject of population.

* The Proportionate number of Deaths under 10 years of Age registered in England and Wales was for each 1000—

Years.	Per 1000
1813	422
1825	419
1830	410

Proportion of Marriages to Population	1 in	113.61
.... ,, ... Births to Population	1 ..	28.27
.... ,, ... Deaths to Population (including still-born)	1 ..	39.11
.... ,, ... Do. do. (excluding still-born)	1 ..	41.5
.... ,, ... Annual Increase of Population		0.978 per cent.
.... ,, ... Illegitimate to Legitimate Births in Denmark	1 ..	9.16
.... ,, ... Do. do. do. in Copenhagen	1 ..	4.25
.... ,, ... Still-born to those born alive in Denmark	1 ..	22.90
.... ,, ... Do. do. in Copenhagen	1 ..	16
Number of Children to each Marriage		3.62

Proportion of Males and Females,*—viz.

	Males.	Females.
Total number of births	51.10	48.90
Born alive	50.86	49.14
Still-born	56.57	43.43
Legitimate Children	51.07	48.93
Illegitimate Children	51.33	48.67
Total number of Deaths	52.08	47.92
Deaths under 10 years of age	54.48	45.52
.... ,, ... 20 ,,	54.07	45.93
.... ,, ... 50 ,,	52.89	47.11
.... above 50 ,,	50.33	49.67

* The following are several similar statements for parts of Great Britain

Proportion of Males to Females; viz.			Males.	Female
Total number of Births,	England and Wales,	1830	50.83	49.17
Ditto	Glasgow	1820—1833	52.26	47.74
Children born alive	do.	do.	52.19	47.81
.... still-born	do.	do.	52.83	47.17
.... born alive—	General Lying-in Hospital,	1795—1834	50.56	49.44
.... Ditto	City of London	ditto	51.38	48.62
Legitimate children—	England and Wales,	1830....	50.84	49.16
Illegitimate ditto	do.	do.	50.63	49.37
Total number of deaths	do.	1813—1830	50.68	49.32
Deaths under 10 years of age	do.	do.	53.93	46.07
..... 20	do.	do.	48.01	51.99
..... 50	do.	do.	47.96	52.04
,, above 50	do.	do.	48.35	51.65

Marriages and Births in the Kingdom of Denmark (the Duchies of Sleswick and Holstein excepted) in 1834, from official statements published by the Danish Chancery at Copenhagen.

Districts, &c.	Number of Marriages.	Births.			Amongst which			
					Illegitimate		Still-born	
		Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Males	Females
Copenhagen	957	1,909	1,762	3,671	430	434	118	98
Zealand	3,161	6,250	6,044	12,294	434	384	281	220
Funen	1,231	2,702	2,571	5,273	354	354	125	99
Laaland and Falster	792	1,360	1,259	2,619	108	90	57	35
Als and Aeroe	216	425	416	841	19	15	17	12
Aalborg	941	2,047	1,888	3,935	188	172	72	49
Wiborg	559	1,307	1,278	2,585	122	97	60	27
Aarhuus	1,512	3,051	2,994	6,045	262	255	138	123
Ribe	1,405	3,058	2,945	6,003	176	183	156	123
Total	10,774	22,109	21,157	43,266	2,093	1,984	1,024	786

Return of the number of Deaths, including still-born children, in the Kingdom of Denmark (the Duchies of Sleswick and Holstein excepted) during 1834, from official documents.

	Males	Females	Total
From Birth to 10 years old	7,448	6,222	13,670
,, 10 20 ,, ...	891	861	1,752
,, 20 30 ,, ...	859	981	1,840
,, 30 40 ,, ...	974	1,049	2,023
,, 40 50 ,, ...	1,090	917	2,007
,, 50 60 ,, ...	1,429	1,160	2,589
,, 60 70 ,, ...	1,553	1,446	2,999
,, 70 80 ,, ...	1,349	1,429	2,778
,, 80 90 ,, ...	647	809	1,456
,, 90 and upwards .. ,, ...	56	124	180
Total	16,296	14,998	31,294

Proportionate number of Deaths occurring at different ages in Denmark, among the Male Population.

	Average of five years.		
	1784	1808	1833
From Birth to 10 years old	458	385	366
,, 10 20 ,, ...	40	39	43
,, 20 30 ,, ...	57	55	56
,, 30 40 ,, ...	62	54	60
,, 40 50 ,, ...	73	74	77
,, 50 60 ,, ...	85	91	105
,, 60 70 ,, ...	104	115	123
,, 70 80 ,, ...	80	118	113
,, 80 90 ,, ...	34	60	51
,, 90 ... 100 ,, ...	5	7	5
,, 100 upwards ,, ...	2	2	1
	1,000	1,000	1,000

Proportionate number of Deaths occurring at different ages in Denmark in the year 1834, distinguishing Males and Females.

	Males	Females	Total
From Birth to 10 years old	457	415	436
,, 10 20 ,, ...	55	57	56
,, 20 30 ,, ...	52	65	59
,, 30 40 ,, ...	60	70	65
,, 40 50 ,, ...	67	61	64
,, 50 60 ,, ...	88	77	83
,, 60 70 ,, ...	95	97	96
,, 70 80 ,, ...	83	95	89
,, 80 90 ,, ...	39	54	47
,, 90 upwards ,, ...	4	9	5
	1,000	1,000	1,000